# Portable Background Check Registry (PBC) Training Manual for Providers

This document details the policy and procedure for completing the portable background check clearance <u>online</u> for the Department of Early Learning. There is some mention of the paper application processing in this document.



merit.del.wa.gov

# Portable Background Check Registry Facts....

The 2011 Washington State Legislature passed a bill that creates a portable background check registry **July 1, 2012**.

The registry will give licensed child care employees, volunteers and family home household members a three-year "portable" clearance.

The card will allow employees to work in more than one facility during those three years. Submitting a new background check is not required to work in a new facility.

All individuals who are currently 'qualified' must enter the 'registry' between July 2, 2012 and June 30, 2013 – unless their background check clearance expires prior to June 30, 2013.

- The new registry will be available online July 2, 2012. The new background check forms will be accepted beginning July 2, 2012.
- Old background check forms will NOT be accepted in the DEL office after June 26, 2012.
- Local DEL offices are working to identify incomplete background forms that have not been returned from providers or employees. Local DEL offices will remind providers to return the forms by June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Incomplete forms returned after June 26th will be returned to the provider. Any outdated forms received by the local DEL office after June 26th will be returned. The applicant must follow the new policies and procedures effective July 1st.

- Access to the registry will be through MERIT (Managed Education and Registry Information Tool) for licensee, employees, prospective employees, volunteers and individuals who reside at a licensed family home to include minors/spouses.
- Access to the registry requires a MERIT USER ID and password. A valid email address is required to use the online registry.
- Payment Information Online background checks will be faster and less expensive.
  - \$12.00 for online applications; or
  - \$24.00 for applications submitted by paper.
  - The applicant is responsible for the payment of fees, to include the fingerprints costs. The provider can voluntarily pay these on behalf of the applicant but the provider is no longer required to pay.

- DEL will be using the same fingerprint vendor MorphoTrust/L-1.
- Fingerprints are required when the individual is 16 years of age or older and:
  - Has not had a background check clearance (by DEL or DSHS)
     within the last three years;
  - Lives outside of Washington State;
  - Has lived outside of Washington State since the last background check clearance (by DEL or DSHS); or
  - Has lived in Washington for less than 3 years and had a previous fingerprint check with DEL.
    - There is an exception for military families your DEL licensor will explain these exceptions and the process.

- Providers are required to:
  - Ensure the background check is submitted within seven days of hire or residing in a licensed family home.
  - Ensure the background check is submitted within seven days for minors who require background checks. Parental signature is required for minor and may be completed online. (A MERIT account is required.)
  - o "Confirm" in MERIT, that individual has a clearance prior to unsupervised access.
  - Annually submit the declaration form-which includes reviewing each individual's background clearance.
  - Report within twenty-four hours, any knowledge of nonconviction and conviction information listed in the crimes listed in WAC 170-06-0120 or reasonably related to the list.

- Appliants will be the primary receipient of communication regarding the background clearance. Providers will no longer receive the 'rapsheet.'
- Individuals must report within twenty-four hours when they become aware of an event such as a nonconviction or conviction information.
   Information is reported to the End Harm and is on the PBC application and the clearance certificate/card.
- Failing to report may result in suspension of the individuals PBC Providers may be penalized according to other violation procedures in WAC Chapter 170-151, 170-295, or 170-296A.

# Online PBC Steps

- 1. Applicant has an active MERIT account (USER ID and password)
- 2. Applicant enters PBC Application into MERIT
- 3. Applicant receives confirmation PBC submitted successfully –online
- 4.DEL staff review fingerprint requirement
- 5.DEL staff send the information to DSHS/BCCU
- 6.DSHS/BCCU sends results to DEL
- 7.DEL staff review results and make a decision (clear/qualify or disqualify)
- 8. Applicant and provider receive decision results (Email, MERIT update in professional record, US post mailing for those without email)

## **Paper Process for**

## Portable Background Clearance Applications

- Paper PBC applications may be submitted. However, they will have a higher processing cost. (\$24.00)
- Paper PBC applications are mailed to the DEL Olympia address and will have a longer processing time.
- The local DEL office will provide paper copies of the PBC application and MERIT account application to applicants.



# PBC Registry Basics Navigation

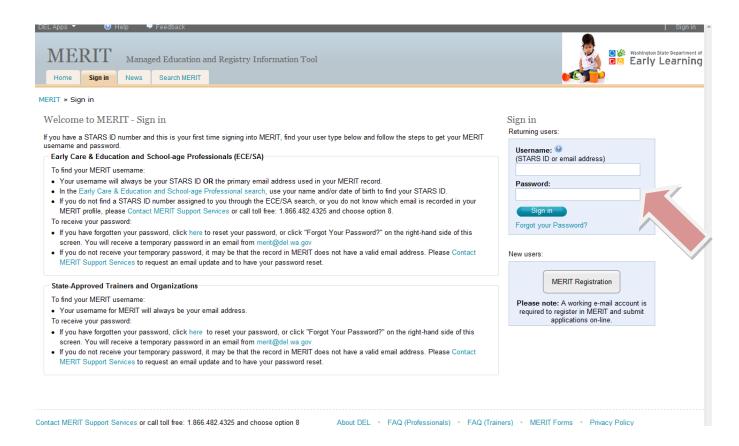
Below is some basic information to help navigate through the MERIT PBC process:

- The system will time out after 20 minutes of inactivity. You will have to log in again. The current information that was input will be saved.
- Information marked with an asterisk \* is required for the applicant to complete.
- The tab key moves the user from one field to the next.
- In this document, special boxes highlight helpful information.
- Online information in encrypted with the highest level of security.

### MERIT Homepage



### Login MERIT with your User ID and Password





#### Start the Background Check Application

MERIT » Applications

Applications

#### Early Care & Education and School-age Professionals (ECE/SA)

STARS ID Number

You have already submitted an STARS ID Request. View Submitted STARS ID Request

**Education Application** 

Use this application to verify your education including high school, college and advanced degree information. You will need to submit supporting documents to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) for verification. Examples include official transcripts, certificates and credentials. You do not need to submit certificates for

Sheet.3

**Educational Exemption** 

Use this application to request an exemption from the 20 Hour Basic STARS training requirement based on your education. You must be currently employed in a child care facility licensed or certified by the Department of Early Learning (DEL) in order to be eligible for an exemption. You will need to submit supporting documents to

DEL for verificatio

Continuing Education Proposal

Use this application to request STARS credit hours for trainings taken out-of-state, from a non-state-approved trainer or for a college class that is not within a college stary Childhood Education Department. You will need to submit supporting documents to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) for verification.

Facility Licensed or Certified by the Department of Early Learning (DEL)

Facility Registration

Use this application to request access to create and maintain a profile of your child care facility licensed or certified by the DEL. Upon approval by your DEL Licensor, you will be able to use MERIT as a management tool

#### State-Approved Trainers and Events

State-Approved Trainer Application

For all state-approved trainers, a professional STARS ID will be required in order to take training and meet annual continuing education requirements. In order to maintain a single, consistent record as a professional and trainer, please submit your state-approved trainer application from your professional record. If you do not have a professional record, please register in MERIT and apply for a STARS ID, then submit your application to be a state-approved trainer. Any personal and educational information that exists in your professional record will pre-populate your trainer application.

Conference/Special Event Application

Use this application if you are a sponsoring organization or entity and are requesting STARS credit hours for a 'one-time' training event. Training events may include conferences, institutes or visiting speakers.

Portable Background Check Application

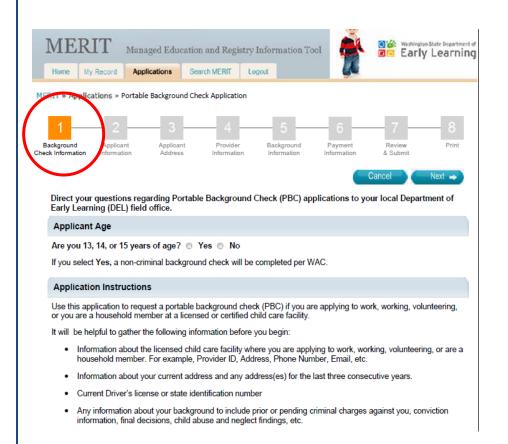
Portable Background Check Application

Use this application to request a portable background check (PBC) if you are applying to work, working, volunteering, or you are a household member at a licensed or certified child care facility.

Select the "Applications" tab at the top of the page.

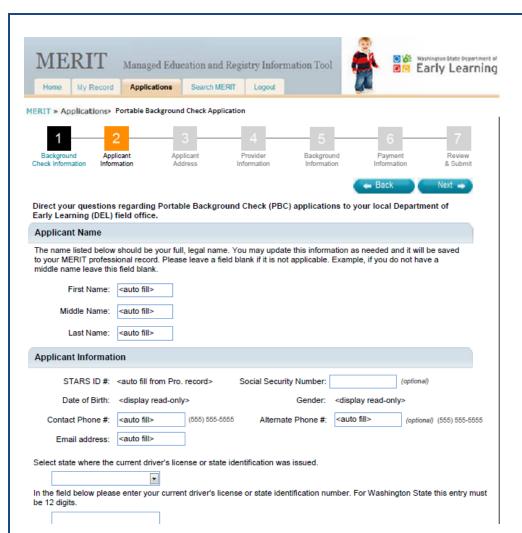
Scroll down to the Portable
Background Check Application and
click on the Blue "Portable
Background Check Application."

# Complete the PBC Application - One Step at a time -Carefully Read Each Question



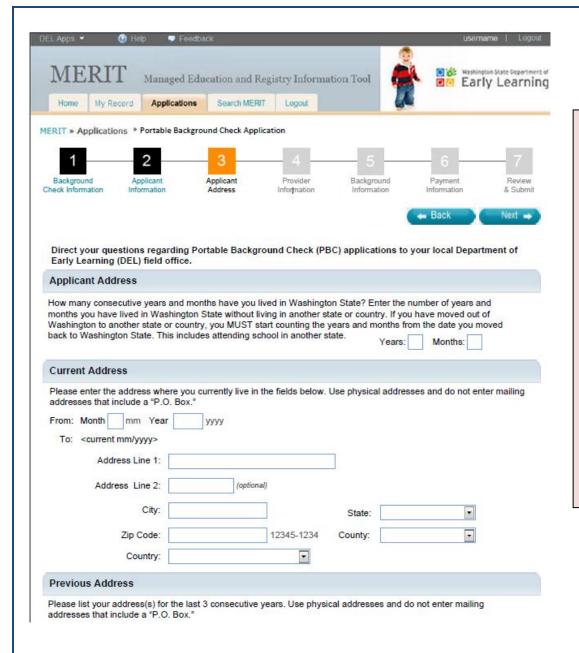
#### **STEP 1: Background Check Information**

This Screen Shot is on Step One of the PBC Application – It is Circled and Highlighted in Orange. There are a total of eight steps. The incomplete steps are gray.



#### **STEP 2: Application Information**

Some information will pre-fill from the MERIT professional record. If the information in the MERIT professional record is NOT correct, the user changes it in the professional record.



#### **STEP 3: Applicant Address**

The question "How many consecutive years...." - if you do not live in Washington, enter -0- years and -0- months.

Address information must be entered in the correct date order.

There must be three years of address history.

### What does an error box look like?

#### lirect your questions regarding Portable Background Chec



- Issuing State is required
- Drivers License or State Identification number i



Appl	icant N	lame
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The name listed below should be your full, legal name. You may upd Example, if you do not have a middle name leave this field blank.

First Name:	Amber	
iddle Name:		
La:		

Applicant Information	r
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STARS ID #:			
Date of Birth:	mm/dd/yyyy		
Contact Phone #:			
Email address:			
	Select state where the current driver's lice		
	Washington ▼		
	In the field below please enter your currer		
	none		

When information is incorrectly entered, a red error box appears with a message. Read the message and complete the missing information.

Sometimes you have to 'scroll-up' to see the error message.



#### MERIT » Applications » Portable Background Check Application







All information is required unless marked as optional. Items with a red asterisk (\*) must be corrected to continue. Direct your questions regarding Portable Background Check (PBC) applications to your local Department of Early Learning (DEL) field office.

#### Provider Information

Please check the box beside the Primary Provider (facility) with whom you are applying to work, working, volunteering, or where you are a household member. If no Provider is listed please select the option to add a Provider. All Provider names should be listed according to the licensed name which can be found on the Provider's license. For assistance filling out this section contact the facility director, owner or licensee or visit the DEL website at <a href="https://www.del.wa.gov">www.del.wa.gov</a> and use Child Care Check. Maintain a current employment record at all times by updating your professional record in MERIT.

+ Click here to add Provider				
Provider Name	Job Title	Verification Status	Primary Provider	Edit
YMCA - WADE KING ELEMENTA Doing Business As WHATCOM FAMILY YMCA @ WADE KING ELEMENTARY.	School-Age Assistant Director	Unverified		<b>2</b>





# STEP 4: Provider Information

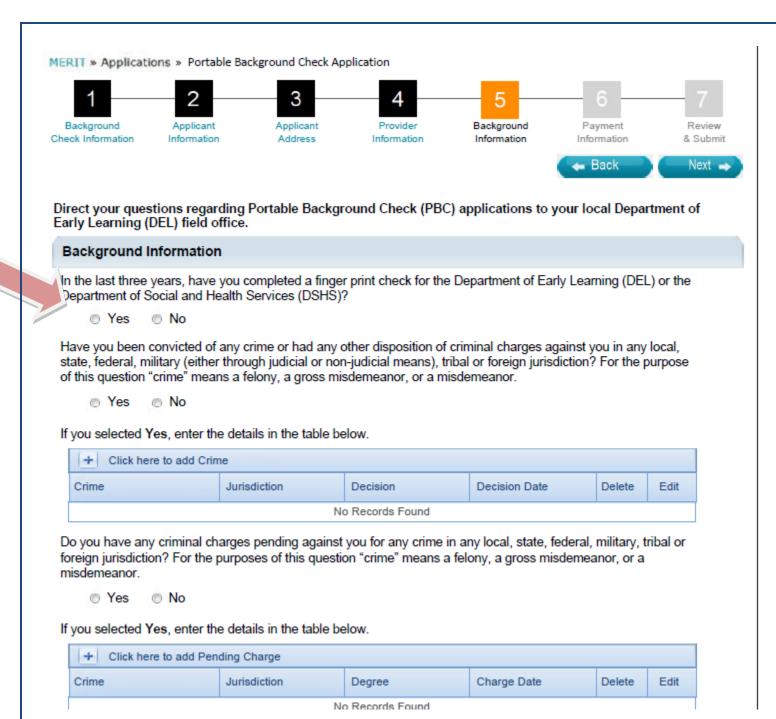
Provider information must be completed.

Search for the provider. If you cannot find the provider – search Child Care Check, on the DEL website, by the provider's telephone number.

Future dates of employment cannot be entered. It is an automation limitation.

Select the provider primary box.

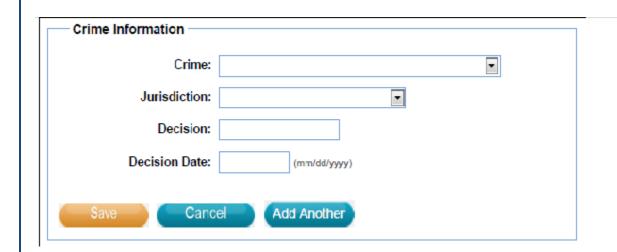
Be sure to keep this information current.



# STEP 5: Background Information

This information is encrypted with the highest level of security.

Complete the information accurately and truthfully.



If the answer is "yes" to a conviction or pending crime – this box will appear.

Complete the information accurately and truthfully.



#### Mail the Payment Coupon and the Payment

All information is required unless marked as optional. Items with a red asterisk (\*) must be corrected to continue. **Direct your questio**Department of Early Learning (DEL) field office.

#### **Payment Information**

In order to process your Portable Background Check you must provide a fee of . DO NOT Send CASH! You may provide the payment by on your check. Please note: A fee will be assessed for a returned check for insufficient funds. Credit card and electronic payments are

#### STARS ID: 226970198

Make your check out to: Department of Early Learning (DEL)

Mail Payment to:

Department of Early Learning ATTN: PBC P.O. Box 40971 Dlympia, WA 98504-0971

#### What type of payment are you submitting?

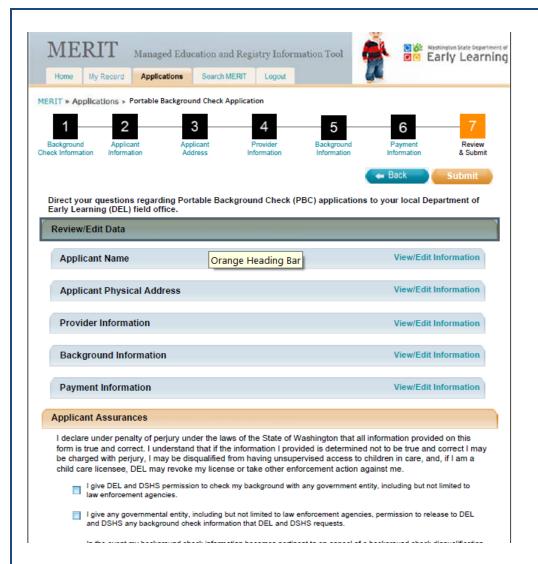
0	Personal Check	Check Number:	(optional)			
0	My employer is sending the check	Employer Name:	Please Select	•	Check Number:	(optional)
0	Other (Money order, Cashier's check, etc.)	Number: money	orde (optional)			

#### **STEP 6: Payment Information**

Be sure to mail the payment coupon and the payment to the correct address in Olympia – NOT the local DEL office.

No electronic payments methods are available at this time.

If payment is by "Money Order" write Money Order in the box.



#### **Step 7: Review and Submit**

Complete the Applicant
Assurances – Read and check each
box carefully.

#### Read, Check you understand and Sign.

#### Reporting Responsibilities

I understand I must report within twenty-four hours the following information about myself once I submit my background check, regardless of the State where the incident occurred:

· An arrest or pending charge against me.

correct to the best of my knowledge.

· Allegations of child abuse or neglect.

Report this information to 1.866.ENDHARM (1.866.363.4276)
I have read and understand the reporting responsibilities.

Your Signature:  Signature: I,  correct to the best of my knowledge.	, declare that the information on this application is true and
<current date=""> Please indicate where this form was signed (Name of city or county):</current>	
Parent or Guardian's Signature (Required if	you are under 18 years of age):
Signature: I,	, declare that the information on this application is true and

Please indicate where this form was signed (Name of city or county):

Reporting responsibilities are very important to understand. Read them carefully.

If the individual is under age 18, a parent must complete the parent/guardian signature box.

- There are specific reporting responsibilities that must be followed.
- Providers are also subject to certain reporting responsibilities.
   Providers may be subject to fines, or other actions, if they do not report the required information.
- Your signature must be exactly the same as your name entered on the application

From: merit@del.wa.gov Sent: Wed 5/23/2012 1:50

To: BackgroundCheck, (DEL)

Subject: Portable Background Check application Confirmation (for: roadrunner@helen.com)

Dear Road Runner,

MERIT Username: roadrunner@helen.com

STARS ID: 4030565908

Your application for the Portable Background Check has been successfully submitted. Please note that you may need to complete the fingerprint identification process. If fingerprints are required, you will receive a separate email with attached instructions.

Beginning July 1, 2012, fingerprints are required for all individuals that are 16 years of age or older and new to child care. Fingerprints are also required if you have a portable background clearance, move out of Washington and return to child care. The cost of fingerprints is approximately \$43.00 and payable to the vendor when fingerprints are completed.

Usually a background check is completed in less than seven days if fingerprints are not required. If fingerprints are required, a background check may take up to thirty days after you complete the fingerprints.

When the results of your Portable Background Check are completed, they will be posted in your professional record in MERIT and you will receive a notification by email.

You must report within twenty-four hours the following information about you once a portable background check is submitted, regardless of the State where the incident occurred:

- · An arrest or pending charges.
- Allegations of child abuse or neglect.

Report this information to 1.866.ENDHARM (1.866.363.4276).

Sincerely,

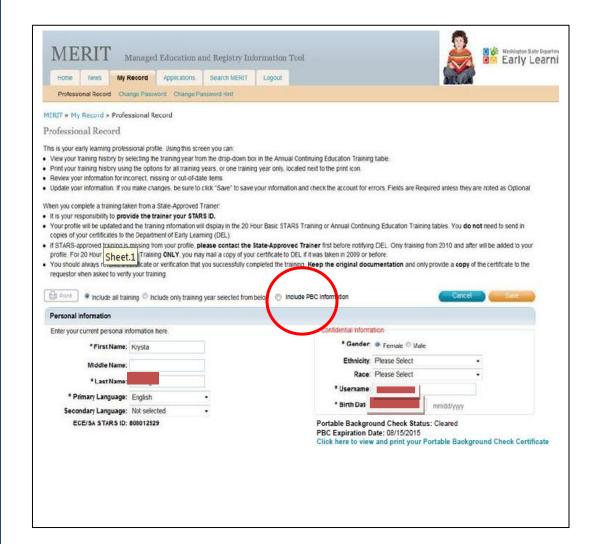
Department of Early Learning

For questions regarding your PBC application please contact your local DEL licensing office.

An email is sent to the applicant once the PBC is submitted online.



Your 'Professional Record ' in MERIT will show your PBC status . You will receive an email when your status changes. The primary selected provider will also receive the email.



#### **PBC Status**

In-Process – The application has been successfully submitted

Cleared – The application has cleared

Insufficient Payment – Payment processing problem

Disqualified – The applicant has been disqualified

Suspended – A previously cleared background clearance is pending additional information

Expired – The application has not been renewed prior to the expiration date

Withdrawn – The application is no longer in process

#### Print the PBC clearance certificate/card and let the provider know the process is complete.

#### Portable Background Check Certificate

Managed Education and Registry Information Tool merit.del.wa.gov



○ Washington State Department of

Early Learning

Name: <First Name last name from Professional Record>

STARS ID #: <STARS ID #>

Effective Date: <effective date of clearance from BC> Expiration Date: <expiration date of clearance from BC>

This is to certify that <First Name Last Name> has applied for a portable background check and was cleared by the Department of Early Learning on <Effective Date>. This certificate is valid for three years and expires on <Expiration Date>. In order to qualify the above named person for employment in a childcare facility in which the applicant will have unsupervised access to children in care, the validity of this card must be checked by going to merit.del.wa.gov and verifying the status within seven days of initial employment.

#### TERMS of USE:

Validation of this clearance remains in the electronic PBC registry at the Department of Early Learning. To verify this clearance go to del.wa.gov or merit.del.wa.gov

This card is void if the above named person moves out of the state of Washington.

This card must be renewed before the expiration date.

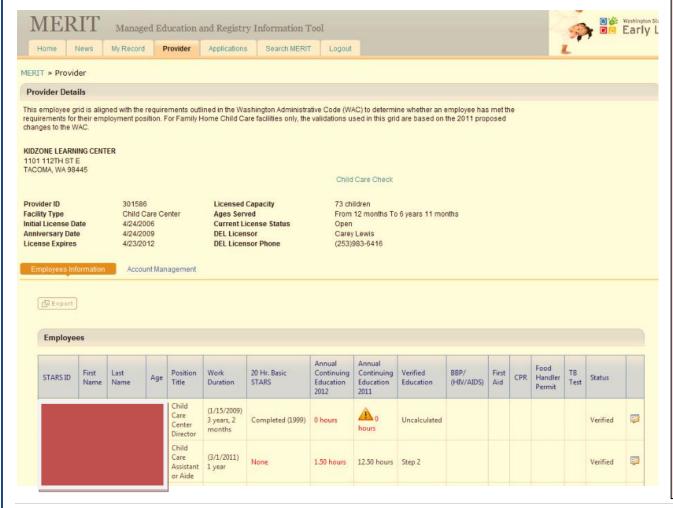
Individuals who have been issued a background check clearance certificate shall report nonconviction and conviction information to the department within twenty four hours of the event constituting the nonconviction or conviction information.

#### **PBC Clearance**

The applicant goes into MERIT to print the Clearance Certificate.



# Providers -You MUST confirm you have viewed the PBC. Print a copy and keep it for your records.



#### **Providers View**

Providers use MERIT on a regular basis to confirm that they have reviewed the PBC status of their employees, volunteers and household members.

Your facility must be 'registered' in order to complete this process. Instructions for facility registration are on the MERIT site.

- Select the 'edit' option beside the individual's name.
- Select the 'confirmed' option under the PBC status section.
- Save the changes.
- Print the page and maintain in your records.
- Keep this information updated remove individuals who no longer are 'associated' with your facility.

### Additional Resources

DEL home page:

http://www.del.wa.gov

DEL background check page:

http://www.del.wa.gov/requirements/new/background.aspx

MERIT information page

http://www.del.wa.gov/requirements/professional/merit.aspx

MERIT home page

merit.del.wa.gov

MERT Account Application
<a href="http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/licensing/docs/MERITSTARSIDRequest.pdf">http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/licensing/docs/MERITSTARSIDRequest.pdf</a>

Mail Portable Background Clearance forms and payment to:

Department of Early Learning ATTN: PBC PO BOX 40971 Olympia WA 98504-0971

# Thank you for your participation!

### Many thanks to:

- The many providers who assisted in testing the program: Centralia College, Wade YMCA, Bright Horizons, Spokane School District, ESD 112 and family home providers – Kathy Miller and Wendy Avery.
- The DEL staff who participated in the design and testing of the registry.

